Northern India by Rail

SILKS, SPICES AND SNAKE CHARMERS

October 31 to November 15, 2015
Early western explorers to India returned with tales of ceremonies in golden temples; women draped in brilliant silks; and forests teeming with wild tigers, bold elephants and exotic birds. Stories of this varied and colorful land still capture our imagination today, which is one of the many reasons why Travel/Study has organized, to date, nearly 30 trips to this magnificent country. Our journey aboard India’s newest luxury train, the Maharajas’ Express, allows us to visit, in comfort and style, some of the great highlights of the Subcontinent, a kaleidoscope of cultural, historical, religious and natural riches. Join us as we encounter Hindu culture, colonial architecture, Muslim monuments, Buddhist temples and so much more with religious studies professor Linda Hess, a fluent Hindi speaker who has conducted extensive fieldwork throughout the country.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**INDULGE** in a champagne breakfast overlooking the Taj Mahal, arguably the finest example of Mughal architecture and the greatest monument to love ever built. **BEHOLD** the dazzling Mirror Palace in Jaipur’s Amber Fort, once the royal residence of the Rajput maharajas and their families. **MARVEL** at the 18th-century Jantar Mantar astronomical observatory in Jaipur, today a World Heritage site. **DELIGHT** in a thrilling rickshaw ride and observe elaborate prayer rituals in Varanasi, Hinduism’s holiest and India’s oldest city.

COVER: AMBER FORT, JAIPUR
**LINDA HESS, ’64,** a senior lecturer in Stanford’s religious studies department, first traveled to India at the age of 21 and since then has spent a total of about 12 years in the country, researching and writing about poetry, performance, religion and the social contexts in which they exist. She has done extensive fieldwork in Varanasi and rural Madhya Pradesh. A fluent speaker of Hindi, she is a well-known scholar and translator of devotional poetry from the Hindi language region of North India—particularly the 15th-century poet-saint Kabir, who remains a powerful and popular influence in society today. In 2010 she was awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship for her pioneering study of Kabir’s living oral traditions. Previous work includes documentation of the Ramllila of Ramnagar (Varanasi), an annual 30-day outdoor traveling performance that dramatizes the Ramayana epic. In addition to her fields of research, Professor Hess is interested in the intersections of religion and politics and the Gandhian legacy of nonviolent political struggle. Her Stanford courses include Religion and Music in South Asia, Gandhi and Nonviolence, Exploring Hinduism, and Hinduism and Muslims in South Asia.

— At Stanford: senior lecturer, department of religious studies, since 1996; co-director, Center for South Asia, 2006–09
— Author of *The Bijak of Kabir* (translations and essays), *Singing Emptiness: Kumar Gandharva Performs the Poetry of Kabir,* and articles on interpretation and performance of the Ramayana
— BA, English, 1964, Stanford University
— MA, comparative literature, 1972, and PhD, comparative literature, 1980, UC-Berkeley

**SIGN UP ONLINE!**

**I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.**

Signature _________________________________________________________

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I wish to have single accommodations.

OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with __________________________

OR ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

**Category Preference:**

1st choice: ____________________________ ☐ Twin Beds ☐ Double Bed

2nd choice: __________________________ __ ☐ Twin Beds ☐ Double Bed

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for ______ space(s).

☐ Enclosed is my check (make payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR

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CARD #: ____________________________ EXPIRES Date

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Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?northindia2015. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
Itinerary

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 1
U.S. / DELHI
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights, arriving in Delhi in the afternoon or late evening on Sunday. THE OBEROI

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2
DELHI
Embark on a tour of Old Delhi, the seat of power for Mughal India in the 12th century. Drive past the Red Fort, surrounded by shops and bazaars. Then visit Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India; the bustling business center of Chandni Chowk with its colorful bazaars and narrow lanes; and Raj Ghat, the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi. After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Gather this evening for a welcome reception and dinner at our hotel. THE OBEROI (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
DELHI
Today we explore the British colonial city of New Delhi, with its wide boulevards and formal parks. See its many highlights including the Rashtrapati Bhawan, once the awe-inspiring residence of the British viceroys and now the Presidential Palace; the India Gate memorial; the Mughal Humayun’s Tomb; and the Qutub Minar, an elaborate 240-foot-tall pillar that still dominates the skyline. THE OBEROI (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
DELHI / UDAIPUR
After a morning flight to Udaipur, check in to our hotel for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. This evening, we enjoy a boat ride on scenic Lake Pichola. THE OBEROI UDAIVILAS (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5
UDAIPUR
Arise this morning in lovely Udaipur, the “City of Sunrise” also known as the “Venice of the East.” Visit the remarkable City Palace, Rajasthan’s largest palace complex that includes the Mor Chowk with its lavish peacock mosaics and the Moti Mahal (Palace of Pearls). View the impressive folk arts collection at Lok Kala Mandal and walk among the fountains and marble elephants at Sahelion-ki-Bari, or Garden of the Maidens, a verdant oasis in otherwise dry Rajasthan. THE OBEROI UDAIVILAS (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
UDAIPUR / JAIPUR
Drive to Jaipur, the rose-hued capital of Rajasthan. Built in 1728, the city was painted pink (the traditional color of welcome) in 1883 to honor the visit of Prince Albert. This afternoon is at leisure to explore this city that earned the sobriquet, “the Pink City of India,” perhaps to shop for the fine jewelry and hand-printed textiles for which Jaipur is renowned. THE OBEROI RAJVIDHAS (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
JAIPUR
Spend the day exploring the courtyards, sprawling gardens and palatial structures of Jaipur’s City Palace. Also spend time at Jantar Mantar, a 19th-century openair astronomical observatory with a 90-foot-high sundial built by Maharaja Jai Singh II in the 18th century and today a World Heritage site. THE OBEROI RAJVIDHAS (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
JAIPUR / EMBARK
MahaRajas’ EXPRESS
Venture to the nearby Amber Fort, a fortified palace complete with massive ramparts and elaborately decorated living
quarters including the dazzling Sheesh Mahal (Chamber of Mirrors). Wind through the palace along vaulted passageways and wander among its numerous courtyards. Before boarding our train, enjoy a sumptuous lunch at a local restaurant. **MAHARAJAS’ EXPRESS (B,L,D)**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9 RANTHAMBORE / FATEHPUR SIKRI**

Begin the day on an adventurous note with an exciting early-morning safari. Originally the private hunting ground of the Maharajas, Ranthambore was declared a national park in 1973. Look for sambar, chital, nilgai, chinkara, wild boar, sloth bear, hyena and jackal. If we are fortunate we may even spot the elusive tiger or the shy leopard. Return to our train and continue to the fabled deserted Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri, a World Heritage site. Built by Emperor Akbar as his capital in the late 16th century, the complex displays a perfect blend of Hindu and Muslim architectural styles. **MAHARAJAS’ EXPRESS (B,L,D)**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AGRA / GWALIOR**

Rise early for our pre-dawn visit to the Taj Mahal, one of India’s most enduring symbols and one of the world’s great architectural triumphs. Built by Emperor Shah Jehan in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal, this pure-white marble mausoleum is arguably the finest example of Mughal architecture, which combines elements of Islamic, Persian, Ottoman and Indian architectural styles. After a champagne breakfast with a view of the Taj Mahal, return to the Maharajas’ Express and ride the rails to Gwalior to explore the classic collection of arts and artifacts displayed in the Jai Vilas Palace Museum. Partake in a high tea at the Usha Kiran Palace compound before returning to our train. **MAHARAJAS’ EXPRESS (B,L,D)**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 ORCHHA / KHAJURAHO**

En route to Khajuraho, stop in the sleepy town of Orchha, where we catch a glimpse of the rich collection of arts and crafts of the Bundela kings. In Khajuraho, the original capital of a Hindu dynasty that ruled this part of India from the 10th to the 12th centuries, visit the World Heritage-listed temples best known for their sexual and erotic art and intricate carvings depicting everyday activities of the time. **MAHARAJAS’ EXPRESS (B,L,D)**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 LUCKNOW**

The capital of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, played a critical role in the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Tour the Residency with its British Raj-era architecture including the grand Rumi Darwaza or Turkish Gate, and Bada Imambara, a Shia shrine and one of the most imposing buildings in Lucknow. Sample traditional Awadhi cuisine during dinner at a local restaurant this evening. **MAHARAJAS’ EXPRESS (B,L,D)**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 DELHI / DISEMBARK MAHARAJAS’ EXPRESS**

After breakfast onboard, bid farewell to the Maharajas’ Express and transfer to our airport hotel. The rest of the day is free for individual pursuits or to relax after our long journey. Gather this evening for a farewell reception and dinner. **THE OBEROI, GURGAON (B,D)**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 DELHI / U.S.**

Transfer to Delhi’s international airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B)**
Program Cost*

Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified.

**CATEGORY** | **DOUBLE RATE**
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A | $16,495
Deluxe Cabin with twin/double bed and attached bathroom with shower. 112 sq. ft.
B | $19,995
Junior Suite with twin/double bed, writing table and attached bathroom with shower. 150 sq. ft.
C | $24,595
Suite with double bed, separate living and bedroom areas and attached bathroom with bathtub. 220 sq. ft.
D | $35,295
Presidential Suite with two bedrooms, one with twin beds and one with a double bed, two attached bathrooms, one with a bathtub and a separate living room/dining room area; spans an entire carriage. 448 sq. ft.

**CATEGORY** | **SINGLE RATE**
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A | $24,595**
Deluxe Cabin with twin beds and attached bathroom with shower. 112 sq. ft.

*Association nonmembers add $200 per person.
**Single accommodations are limited to two travelers at these rates.

Maharajas’ Express

INDIA’S NEWEST LUXURY TRAIN, the 88-passenger Maharajas’ Express recalls the gracious age of rail travel. Featuring state-of-the-art amenities including compartments with a wireless internet connection, plasma television, DVD player, individual climate control and large picture window, the train also houses two dining cars, a bar car, a lounge car and a boutique.
DATES
October 31 to November 15, 2015 (16 days)

SIZE
Up to 36 travelers; limited availability for travelers in single accommodations

INCLUDED
8 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations ■ 6 nights aboard the Maharajas’ Express ■ 14 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 13 dinners ■ Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions ■ Gratuities to guides, drivers and train crew for all group activities ■ All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary ■ Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days ■ Internal flight from Delhi to Udaipur on 11/4 ■ Port fees and embarkation taxes ■ Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance ■ Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information ■ Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare ■ Passport and visa fees ■ Immunization costs ■ Meals and beverages other than those specified as included ■ Independent and private transfers ■ Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance ■ Excess-baggage charges ■ Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Lufthansa Airlines between San Francisco and Delhi is approximately $1,150 as of February 2015 and is subject to change without notice.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this program to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Participants should be able to walk unassisted on extended excursions (typically two to three hours) over uneven, unpaved surfaces and up and down narrow staircases during periods of high heat and humidity. When visiting archaeological ruins, forts and palaces you must be able to walk up and down steep, dark staircases without handrails. Drive times range from one to seven hours over bumpy, though paved roads. Although all of the hotels and motorcoaches included in this program are air-conditioned, other traditional means of conveyance and most of the museums, temples and ruins we visit are not air-conditioned. The train can be bumpy and noisy; participants should feel comfortable walking without assistance between train cars while the train is moving, which requires stepping over pivoting raised plates and opening heavy doors between the cars. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space for this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be provided to U.S. residents with their welcome materials. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within a specified window: 14–21 days of the date listed on the welcome letter, depending on your destination and state of residence.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association, as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in February 2015 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
"I experience India as a place of great intensities, where I continuously encounter things that are beautiful, frightful, surprising, challenging. It wakes me up."

STANFORD FACULTY LEADER LINDA HESS, ’64

S T A N F O R D  T R A V E L / S T U D Y

SADHU (HINDU HOLY MAN), RAJASTHAN